

pleasure to work with Mr. Burrus, as he consistently served the city in an unassuming, unselfish, and effective manner.

Mr. Burrus continues to dedicate his time, expertise, and leadership to his community. He serves on various boards and commissions including several health care boards, higher education committees, as well as metropolitan planning councils. He was the past chairman and treasurer of the Chicago Unit Board of Directors of the American Cancer Society. Mr. Burrus is also a current member and past Chairman of the Chicago Transit Authority.

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Clark Burrus for the valuable leadership and knowledge he has contributed to his workplace and community. I would like to extend my best wishes for many more years of service to his community.

MILITARY CONSTRUCTION APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 1999

SPEECH OF

HON. VIC FAZIO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 22, 1998

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 4059) making appropriations for military construction, family housing, and base realignment, and closure for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999, and for other purposes:

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of this bill and would like to commend the work of both the Chairman, Mr. PACKARD, and the Ranking Member, Mr. HEFNER. Further, I would like to express my sincere appreciation for the work and friendship of Mr. HEFNER. He is truly one of our finest members and it has been my distinct honor to have served with him in this body. The Committee has done an outstanding job in crafting a bill which addresses both the military needs and quality of life concerns for the men and women in our armed services. Make no mistake, our military personnel deserve the best that we in Congress can offer, and this bill takes many of the necessary steps required to improve the quality of life for our military families. The focus this bill places on family housing, child development centers, medical facilities and treatment centers is critical if we are going to continually recruit and retain our best people. While this bill does not meet every deficiency in our military facilities, it continues the approach of budgeting for the highest priority needs of our armed services. Additionally, I believe it represents a firm commitment by this Congress to our men and women in uniform to continue our efforts to improve their living and working conditions.

Further, I would like to express my appreciation to the Committee for their quick response to fund the Continuous Processing Facility at Indian Head. As many of you know, an accidental explosion damaged a portion of this building in February. Although my funding request was unexpected, the Committee responded to this priority by providing funds for a facility which in the long run will be more efficient and flexible in meeting the Defense Department's energetics requirements. Lastly, I

would like to thank the Committee for supporting the Administration's request for the replacement of the Annealing Ovens Facility at Indian Head. This new facility will function in a more efficient fashion and address important environmental concerns in my district. Again, I thank the Chairman and Ranking Member, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

"DAY TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD"

HON. PETER J. VISCLOSKY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about the critical importance of union organizing in protecting working families. "The Day To Make Our Voices Heard" campaign highlights successful organizing drives and shows how they improve workers' standards of living and working conditions. The campaign focuses public attention on the many obstacles workers face in exercising their right to union representation. This week's events are especially important in building coalitions among workers, union leaders, as well as political and community leaders—coalitions that will hold up the example of responsible employers and build public pressure against employers who trample the right of their workers to organize.

In Northwest Indiana—the region I represent—and throughout our country, the opportunity to join a union means a guarantee that workers share in the benefits of increased productivity. The ability to join a union means that you will earn an average 34 percent more than a nonunion worker. The ability to join a union means that you are more likely to receive health benefits from your employer and higher quality benefits that will protect your family members in the case of a serious illness. The ability to join a union means that you are more likely to have a decent pension that will provide you and your spouse with a secure retirement. The ability to join a union means that you will have a greater say in how your workplace is run, which will lead to a safer and more productive workplace.

And what has protecting workers' ability to join unions meant to our country? Over the past century, America's unions have helped build the largest middle class in the history of the world. As we move into the next century, good union jobs will continue to be essential to building and maintaining communities that are strong both economically and socially.

Now you would think that the Congress would be doing everything it could to protect workers right to union representation. Sadly, that is not the case. Just this March, the Republican majority in the House pushed through legislation that would overturn a unanimous 1995 Supreme Court decision recognizing the right of all workers to seek employment, regardless of their membership in a union or their support for union representation in their new workplace. And every year, we see attempts in the Congress to cut funding for the National Labor Relations Board—the federal agency responsible for preventing unfair labor practices by employers and unions.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that Members of the House make our voices heard in support

of union organizing efforts across the country. We owe this—higher wages, better benefits, safer workplaces—and much more to the working men and women of America.

A TRIBUTE TO MEGAN JOHNSTON- COX & IRENE SORENSON

HON. JERRY LEWIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to bring to your attention the fine achievement of Megan Johnston-Cox, an eighth grade student from Home Street Middle School in Bishop, California. Megan was a recent competitor in the National History Day Competition (June 14–18) at the University of Maryland. The competition, sponsored by the Constitutional Rights Foundation, involved students from across the United States who submitted essays on this year's theme: "Migration in History: People, Cultures, and Ideas." In fact, Megan's project was selected for display at the National Archives branch office near the University of Maryland on June 17.

Megan qualified for the national competition by first winning California State History Day competitions at both the county and state levels. Her essay, entitled "Farm to Factory: The Migration of Yankee Women," traced the migration of women from the farms to the textile mills in Lowell, Massachusetts. Megan also researched the impact and development of the textile industry in the United States.

Megan's outstanding accomplishments were undoubtedly guided by the leadership of her teacher, Mrs. Irene Sorenson. Irene is a past winner of the Richard Farrell Award from the Constitutional Rights Foundation which recognized her as the National History Day Teacher of Merit in 1995. Also in 1995, Irene sent another student, Will Baylies, to the National History Day competition. Clearly, the dedication of young students such as Megan and Will, and the guidance of teachers like Irene Sorenson, make our public school system the finest in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me and our colleagues in recognizing Megan Johnston-Cox for her fine accomplishment. To say the least, her fine work is admired by all of us. I'd also like to commend Irene Sorenson for her fine leadership and her devotion to such remarkable educational standards. Students like Megan and instructors like Irene set a fine example for us all and it is only appropriate that the House pay tribute to them both today.

HONORING VIRGILIO AND ANGELA BORRELLI

HON. ELIOT L. ENGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, Virgilio and Angela Borrelli are celebrating fifty years of marriage. These two marvelous people met before Virgilio went off to serve his country in World War II. He returned in 1946 and began his courtship of Angela and on March 14, 1948 they were married in Saint Anthony's Church in Yonkers, New York.

Angela has been active in the Yonkers Aquahung Women's Democratic Club as well as doing extensive charity work. Virgilio was born in Malito in southern Italy in 1923 and came to America in 1937. He is president of a construction firm and has involved himself extensively in the community. He is a founding member of the Italian City Club. His name is on "The Wall" at Ellis Island.

They and their three children, Sam, Yvonne, and Margaret Angeletti, and five grandchildren, are celebrating this grand occasion. I join all who believe in love in congratulating them for fifty years together.

IN SUPPORT OF A "DAY TO MAKE
OUR VOICES HEARD"

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for the working men and women in unions around the country who will showcase their ambitions, visions, successes and heartaches in what is being called a "Day to Make our Voices Heard."

We should be proud of their efforts to create unions to give a voice to their aspirations. These men and women embody the democratic ideal. They have joined together to help create better working conditions for themselves and for all Americans.

Unfortunately, the limited rights that workers currently enjoy do not protect them from unfair and uncivil treatment by some employees. And even these limited rights are under attack by the Republican majority.

Let me give you an example from my district of the unfair actions that some employers will take against employees that have joined together to form a union.

One hundred and one workers at Pacific Rail Services, an intermodal yard in Richmond, California, overwhelming voted to join the International Longshore and Warehouse Union last September. The Union negotiated an agreement with Pacific Rail Services, which included wage and benefit increases. But just before it was officially signed, Burlington Northern/Sante Fe pulled the contract from Pacific Rail Services and gave it to another company. All 101 of the newly organized workers at Pacific Rail Services were thrown out on March 15 and a new, non-union workforce brought in.

Despite outrageous acts such as this one, the Republican majority is determined to weaken even further the right of employees to organize and advocate on their own behalf. The majority has already passed a bill through the House to give employers the power to hire and fire workers based solely on their support for union representation.

This so called "Fairness for Small Business and Employees Act of 1998" would undermine one of the most basic rights, the right to freedom of association. The bill permits employees to discriminate against workers on the basis of the workers' union support. It would permit, even encourage, employers to interrogate applicants on their preference for union representation and to refuse to hire an applicant on this basis.

Attacks like these make "A Day to Make Our Voices Heard" even more important. They

remind us that we should be strengthening, not weakening, the rights of employees to ensure they receive fair and timely resolution of their concerns. I join my colleagues in applauding the efforts of workers all across the country to publicize the strong contributions unions make to a productive and civil workplace and highlight unfair business practices, and to bolster the efforts to those of us in Congress to protect workers' rights.

THE RIGHT TO ORGANIZE

HON. ROBERT MENENDEZ

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, only a short time ago at the turn of this century workers faced sweatshops, low wages, no benefits, and unsafe work places—conditions highlighted in books from the period like Upton Sinclair's, *The Jungle*. These books weren't simply fiction because they described the very real conditions that existed at the time. It's not a period to which I want to return.

Unions played an enormous role in improving these deplorable conditions of the past. But today unions are fighting for their very existence. In our country, as unions have declined, the gap between rich and poor has widened. By attacking unions, the Republicans have been working overtime to return to a past where unions didn't exist but the conditions unions sought to improve did.

Since coming to Congress I've seen labor unions come under attack from all sides: Efforts to repeal Davis-Bacon, pushing down the prevailing wage; decimating OSHA, putting workers' safety at risk; and stalling efforts to raise the minimum wage. That's the climate in Washington.

In spite of these attacks, America's workers still seek to form and join unions. Why? Unions promote the rights of workers, they endorse affirmative action, and they work to close unjustified wage gaps for women and minorities. That's what unions do for American workers.

Mr. Speaker, today's climate is not hospitable to working Americans who wish to organize. There have been documented examples of companies carrying on campaigns to keep their workers from organizing. They've used illegal threats, refusals to promote, illegal warnings, illegal work rules, illegal interrogations, and even illegal surveillance to force workers not to organize.

We can't turn a blind eye to these disturbing practices that workers seeking to organize face everyday. Unfortunately, back-handed tactics and intimidation go a long way to discourage working men and women from organizing. And that's what opponents of unions bank on. These are some of the harshest attacks possible on working Americans and their rights. They're attacks on entities which provide working men and women with the opportunity to improve their lives, their living standards, communities, and companies.

The fact is that not only do union workers earn an average of 33 percent more than non-union workers, but they also are much more likely to have stronger health and pension benefits. We need to let workers know that unions and their members will be there to

strongly support the efforts of those who seek to organize. Labor unions help all working Americans—organized or not. That's why tomorrow's "Day to Make Our Voices Heard" events are so important.

Working men and women built this country, and the labor movement's struggle is their struggle. That struggle never ends and must never be taken for granted. The long uphill climb from the turn of this century could be rolled back by an avalanche of Republican anti-worker ploys. Let's bring back freedom of assembly and freedom of speech to the workplace. Let's respect working Americans' free choice when they seek to organize.

IN MEMORY OF REV. ROBERT
JOSEPH STEVENS

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with great sadness and regret that I must rise today to inform the House that the Rev. Robert J. Stevens recently passed away.

Mr. Speaker, Rev. Stevens was a good friend. And, though he has passed, I want to take this opportunity to stand before you today in order to recognize his remarkable career.

As some of you may know, Rev. Stevens spent most of his career serving as one of South Florida's finest morticians. With sensitivity and compassion, Rev. Stevens worked to comfort mourners during what is always a very difficult time in a person's life.

Rev. Stevens graduated from Palm Beach County's Roosevelt Senior High School in 1958. Furthermore, he completed advanced studies at McAllister College of Embalming in New York and North Carolina A & T University. He returned to South Florida to enter into the Stevens Bros. Funeral Home family business in 1973, where he worked until his death several weeks ago.

Rev. Stevens always believed that his greatest achievement was being called into the Ministry to preach the word of God. He was the founder and pastor of New Christ Missionary Baptist Church in West Palm Beach.

In addition to Rev. Stevens' work in his church and funeral home business, he was an active leader of the Florida State Morticians Association, the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, and the Masons. His extraordinary work on behalf of these organizations will continue to preserve his memory, well into the future.

The passing of Rev. Stevens is a difficult one for me personally. However, Mr. Speaker, I know that he will be missed even more by the people of South Florida. He was there for them as a pastor and as a friend. He will surely be missed.

A TRIBUTE TO MAYOR ELIHU
HARRIS

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 23, 1998

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, Mayor Elihu Harris of Oakland has served the public for twenty-